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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ROBERT AMORY.

ROBERT AMORY A. M., M. D., was born in Boston, May 3, 1842, and died in Nahant, Aug. 27, 1910. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1863 and from the Harvard Medical School in 1866. After the medical degree was conferred he continued his studies for a year in Europe and while in Paris became especially interested in the experimental study of the action of drugs.

He began the practice of medicine in Brookline and soon opened a small laboratory for experimental research in the stable adjoining his residence in Longwood. He then interested a number of medical students in physiological investigations, especially with reference to the action of medicines. Dr. Edward H. Clarke, professor of *materia medica* in the Harvard Medical School encouraged his undertaking and recommended his appointment to a lectureship on the physiological action of drugs. Dr. Amory later opened a larger and more convenient laboratory in La Grange St., Boston, for the use of his students and for the benefit of those physicians who were interested in experimental methods of biological study. A centre thus was established for advanced students of medical problems and the laboratory became the meeting place of the Boston Society of Medical Sciences of which Dr. Amory was one of the founders. During this early period of his career were published his researches on hydrocyanic acid, caffeine and thein, absinth, the bromide of potassium and ammonium and on nitrous oxide. In connection with Dr. S. G. Webber he published a paper on *veratrum viride* and *veratria*, and, with Dr. E. H. Clarke, a monograph on the physiological and therapeutical action of the bromide of potassium and the bromide of ammonium.

His reputation as a scientific investigator along physiological lines thus being established he was appointed in 1872 lecturer on physiology at the Medical School of Maine and in the following year was made professor of physiology in that institution. At this time he translated the lectures in physiology given by Professor Küss of the university

of Strasbourg. He also accepted the editorship of the section on poisons in the third edition of the Medical Jurisprudence of Wharton and Stillé. In connection with Professor E. S. Wood, and later with Dr. R. L. Emerson he edited the chapters on poisons in the subsequent editions of this treatise.

He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1871 and in 1875 presented a communication on photographs of the solar spectrum which he had made with the assistance of Mr. J. G. Hubbard who then was working in his laboratory. Communications also were presented by him on the action of dry, silver bromide collodion to light rays of different frangibility and on the theory of absorption bands in relation to photography and chemistry.

In 1874 he resigned his professorship and devoted his time largely to medical practice and to such laboratory studies as his various obligations would permit. He was appointed the medical examiner of his district, held various positions in the medical staff of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia and in 1880 was President of the National Decennial Convention for the Revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia. During this period he contributed a paper on the haematic properties of dialyzed iron, with Dr. G. K. Sabine made a study of an epidemic of typhoid fever in Brookline and, in 1886, published a treatise on Electrolysis and its therapeutical and surgical use.

For a number of years he had been in the habit of spending his summers in Bar Harbor, Me., where he also practised medicine. Then having become interested in the telephone he was persuaded to withdraw from medical practice and to devote himself to commercial affairs. He identified himself with telephone, electricity and gas, and became President and Manager of the Brookline Gas Company, from which he retired in 1898.

Dr. Amory, while engaged in scientific pursuits, was an earnest, diligent worker, with high ideals. He gave liberally of his time, the freedom of his laboratory and apparatus for the encouragement of others. He was a pioneer in the introduction into this country of the study of the physiological action of drugs by experiments on animals and apart from his individual researches thus contributed to the advancement of exact knowledge.

R. H. FITZ.